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STUDENT UNREST TROUBLES MEXICO

Student unrest continues to be a troublesome issue in many parts of Mexico. Disorders have occurred at two provincial universities in the past two weeks, and outbreaks could spread to the capital city.

A clash between opposing factions at the University of Puebla over elections to the university governing board on 10 July resulted in two killed and eight wounded. Classes have been suspended indefinitely.

[redacted] the Communist-front National Democratic Students' Central was involved in the affair.

A student strike at the University of Veracruz--originally undertaken in support of higher salary demands by professors and other university employees--appears to have taken a turn for the worse. Twenty students are reported to be on a hunger strike, and the financial demands far exceed anything the state could afford. The Cuban consul in Veracruz has reportedly provided propaganda material and advised the students on the staging of demonstrations.

[redacted] have suggested the possibility of disorder at the 90,000-student

National University in Mexico City. Chronic unrest there and indications that agitators are planning disturbances during the Olympics have already led the government to tighten its controls on the students.

A popular student "cause" could be provided by the ruling party's use of power to prevent the moderate opposition from assuming offices it won in at least one of the four recent state elections. For example, despite the government's claims of victory in Chihuahua, it is widely believed that the National Action Party was the real winner in the local elections on 7 July. Eight gubernatorial contests are still pending this year and it is likely that the government will continue its extralegal tactics to ensure against even local setbacks.